

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An upholstery pad, comprising:

a panel having a front surface, a back surface, and a plurality of edges extending from said front surface to said back surface, said panel further having a fixed portion, a first hinge and a first flap, said first flap being divided from said fixed portion by said first hinge, said first flap being continuously pivotable about said first hinge between a first relaxed position and a first biased position, said first hinge being defined by a path of greater flexibility relative to portions of the panel not included in said path so as to provide a predetermined hinging position;

91 a padding member having a front surface and a back surface, at least a portion of said back surface of said padding member being adhesively attached to said front surface of said panel, wherein said padding member extends across said first hinge; and

a sheet having a front surface and a back surface, at least a portion of said back surface of said sheet being adhesively attached to said front surface of said padding member, said sheet extending across opposing edges of the panel and being adhesively attached to respective adjacent portions of said back surface of the panel, member;

wherein pivoting said first flap about said first hinge away from said first relaxed position and toward said first biased position causes a first force to be produced which assists in maintaining an installed position of the pad by urging said first flap to be pivoted about said first hinge toward said first relaxed position.

2. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 1, wherein said first force is at least partially caused by said padding member being placed in tension when said first flap is pivoted about said first hinge away from said first relaxed position and toward said first biased position.

3. (original) An upholstery pad, according to claim 1, wherein said fixed portion is mechanically fastened to a substructure.

4. (currently amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 3, wherein said sheet extends across and is adhesively attached to ~~at least one~~ each of said edges of said panel and extends onto and is adhesively attached to said back surface of said panel.

5. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 3, wherein said first hinge comprises a portion of said panel where said panel is perforated.

6. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 3, wherein said first hinge comprises a portion of said panel where said first flap is detached from said fixed portion.

7. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 3, wherein said first hinge comprises a portion of said panel where said front surface of said panel is scored.

8. (currently amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 3, wherein said fixed portion of said panel is fastened to said substructure by at least one ~~push-type panel~~ push fastener.

9. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 1, wherein said panel having a second flap, said second flap being continuously pivotable, with respect to said fixed portion, along a second hinge between a second relaxed position and a second biased position;

wherein a portion of said padding member extends across at least a portion of said second hinge; and

wherein pivoting said second flap about said second hinge from said second relaxed position toward said second biased position causes a second force to be produced which urges said second flap to be pivoted about said second hinge toward said second relaxed position.

10. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 9, wherein said second force is at least partially caused by said padding member being placed in tension

when said second flap is pivoted about said second hinge away from said second relaxed position and toward said second biased position.

11. (currently amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 9, wherein said sheet extends across and is adhesively attached to ~~at least one~~ each of said edges of said panel and extends onto and is adhesively attached to said back surface of said panel.

12. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 9, wherein said second hinge comprises a portion of said panel where said panel is perforated.

13. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 9, wherein said second hinge comprises a portion of said panel where said second flap is detached from said fixed portion.

14. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 9, wherein said second hinge comprises a portion of said panel where said front surface of said panel is scored.

15. (original) An upholstery pad, according to claim 9, wherein said fixed portion is mechanically fastened to a substructure.

16. (currently amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 15, wherein said fixed portion of said panel is fastened to said substructure by at least one ~~push-type panel~~ push fastener.

Claims 17-38 (withdrawn).

39. (previously added) An upholstery pad as in claim 1, wherein said fixed portion is substantially rigid.

40. (currently amended) An upholstery pad for mounting on a substructure, comprising:

a panel having a front surface, a back surface, and a plurality of edges extending from said front surface to said back surface, said panel further having a fixed portion, a first hinge and a first flap, said first flap being divided from said fixed portion along said first hinge, said first flap being continuously pivotable about said first hinge between a first relaxed position and a first biased position, said first hinge being defined by a path of greater flexibility relative to portions of the panel not included in said path so as to provide a predetermined hinging position;

a padding member having a front surface and a back surface, at least a portion of said back surface of said padding member being adhesively attached to said front surface of said panel, wherein said padding member extends across said first hinge; and

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a sheet having a front surface and a back surface, at least a portion of said back surface of said sheet being adhesively attached to said front surface of said padding member, said sheet extending across opposing edges of the panel and being adhesively attached to respective adjacent portions of said back surface of the panel, member;

wherein pivoting said first flap about said first hinge away from said first relaxed position and toward said first biased position causes a first force to be produced which urges said first flap to be pivoted about said first hinge toward said first relaxed position and wherein said first flap is positioned in said first biased position when said upholstery pad is positioned in said substructure such that said upholstery pad is maintained in position in said substructure by a frictional force between said upholstery pad and said substructure, wherein the frictional force is due at least in part to said first force.

41. (cancelled.)

42. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 40, wherein said first force is at least partially caused by said padding member being placed in tension when said first flap is pivoted about said first hinge away from said first relaxed position and toward said first biased position.

43. (previously added) An upholstery pad, according to claim 40, wherein said fixed portion is mechanically fastened to said substructure.

44. (currently amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 43, wherein said sheet extends across and is adhesively attached to ~~at least one~~ each of said edges of said panel and extends onto and is adhesively attached to said back surface of said panel.

45. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 42, wherein said first hinge comprises a portion of said panel where said panel is perforated.

46. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 42, wherein said first hinge comprises a portion of said panel where said first flap is detached from said fixed portion.

47. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 42, wherein said first hinge comprises a portion of said panel where said front surface of said panel is scored.

48. (currently amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 42, wherein said fixed portion of said panel is fastened to said substructure by at least one ~~push-type panel~~ push fastener.

49. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 40, wherein said panel having a second flap, said second flap being continuously pivotable, with respect to said fixed portion, along a second hinge between a second relaxed position and a second biased position;

wherein a portion of said padding member extends across at least a portion of said second hinge; and

wherein pivoting said second flap about said second hinge from said second relaxed position toward said second biased position causes a second force to be produced which urges said second flap to be pivoted about said second hinge toward said second relaxed position.

50. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 49, wherein said second flap is positioned in said second biased position when said upholstery pad is

positioned in said substructure such that said upholstery pad is maintained in position in said substructure by a frictional force between said upholstery pad and said substructure by said second force.

51. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 49, wherein said second force is at least partially caused by said padding member being placed in tension when said second flap is pivoted about said second hinge away from said second relaxed position and toward said second biased position.

52. (currently amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 49, wherein said sheet extends across and is adhesively attached to ~~at least one~~ each of said edges of said panel and extends onto and is adhesively attached to said back surface of said panel.

53. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 49, wherein said second hinge comprises a portion of said panel where said panel is perforated.

54. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 49, wherein said first hinge comprises a portion of said panel where said second flap is detached from said fixed portion.

55. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 49, wherein said first hinge comprises a portion of said panel where said front surface of said panel is scored.

56. (previously amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 49, wherein said fixed portion is mechanically fastened to a substructure.

57. (currently amended) An upholstery pad, according to claim 56, wherein said fixed portion of said panel is fastened to said substructure by at least one ~~push-type panel~~ push fastener.

58. (previously added) An upholstery pad, according to claim 40, wherein said fixed portion is substantially rigid.

59. (new) An upholstery pad, according to claim 1, wherein the sheet is a fabric sheet.

60. (new) An upholstery pad, according to claim 1, wherein the panel is a cardboard panel.

61. (new) An upholstery pad, according to claim 1, wherein the sheet is tensioned between said opposing edges of the panel.

62. (new) An upholstery pad, according to claim 61, wherein the sheet is tensioned in a direction somewhat perpendicular to the first hinge.

63. (new) An upholstery pad, according to claim 40, wherein the sheet is a fabric sheet.

64. (new) An upholstery pad, according to claim 40, wherein the panel is a cardboard panel.

65. (new) An upholstery pad, according to claim 40, wherein the sheet is tensioned between said opposing edges of the panel.

66. (new) An upholstery pad, according to claim 65, wherein the sheet is tensioned in a direction somewhat perpendicular to the first hinge.